

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-06

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R 230524Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5718

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 10047

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, TH, ASEAN, SEATO

SUBJECT: KUKRIT VISIT TO MANILA: DISCUSSIONS ON ASEAN AND
SEATO

REF: MANILA 10030 (NOTAL)

1. AT END OF FIRST DAY OF MARCOS-KUKRIT TALKS, OFFICIAL
SPOKESMAN SAID TWO LEADERS HAD "STARTED EXPLORING
ALTERNATIVE POSITIONS" REGARDING SEATO. WHEN I ASKED
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR WHAT THIS MEANT, HE SAID HE
THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST TO WAIT UNTIL THE COMMUNIQUE
EMERGES TOMORROW, SINCE THE SUBJECT WAS NOT RPT NOT
COMPLETELY TALKED OUT IN THE FIRST DAY'S MEETING.

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2. ASA SARASIN, OF THAI FONOFF, HOWEVER, WAS QUITE EXPLICIT. HE SAID:

A. THAI WISHED SEATO TREATY TO REMAIN INTACT AND IN EFFECT.

B. SEATO HEADQUARTERS AND ORGANIZATION, ON OTHER HAND, COULD BE "STUDIED," EITHER WITH VIEW TO DISBANDING IT, OR CONVERTING IT TO A DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.

C. KUKRIT WISHED TO DELAY ANY DECISIONS UNTIL THAI COULD DISCUSS SEATO FUTURE WITH OTHER MEMBERS, ALL OF WHOM HAD NOT YET BEEN VISITED.

3. WHEN I ASKED WHAT KUKRIT MEANT ABOUT A SECURITY ROLE FOR ASEAN, ASA SAID THAI WISHED EXPLORE WHETHER ASEAN ORGANIZATION COULD ABSORB FUNCTIONS OF SEATO ORGAINZATION, IF LATTER WERE DISBANDED. HE ADMITTED THIS WAS A NEW DEPARTURE AND WAS NOT SURE HOW IT WOULD BE RECEIVED BY OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS.

4. COMMENT: IF I UNDERSTAND THAI PROPOSALS CORRECTLY, THEY WOULD INVOLVE CONTINUATION OF U.S. AND OTHER ANGLO-SAXON TREATY COMMITMENTS TO THAILAND AND PHILIPPINES BUT THE DISMANTLING OF THE SEATO ORGANIZATION PER SE AND ITS TRANSMUTATION INTO BROADER ASEAN SECURITY ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE NON-REGIONAL MEMBERS. THIS IS A RATHER COMPLEX ORIENTAL MANEUVER WHICH MIGHT PROVE BEYOND THE CARTESIAN CAPABILITIES OF SOME INTERESTED PARTIES TO ACCOMMODATE.
SULLIVAN

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